

3. A hot air balloon according to claim 2, wherein the venting means includes second control means for reefing or to contract or gather said operculum radially or laterally inwardly from or adjacent its outer peripheral edge towards its centre, and axially downwardly away from the aperture towards the centre of the outer envelope to unseal and to expose or open the aperture for rapid deflation of the envelope.
4. A hot air balloon according to claim 3, wherein the second control means comprises a centre pull deflation line connected to the underside centre of the operculum.
5. A hot air balloon according to claim 2, wherein the second control means comprises a deflation line connected to the underside of the vent panel at a plurality of arcuately spaced-apart locations on an inner periphery of the underside of the vent panel, radially spaced outwardly from the centre of the vent panel.
6. A hot air balloon according to claim 2 wherein the second control means comprises a deflation line connected to the outer perimeter of the vent panel by means of a plurality of drawstrings affixed at symmetrically arcuately spaced locations adjacent the outer perimeter of the vent panel and extending radially inwardly to the underside centre of the vent.
7. Venting means for a thermal aircraft, such as a hot air balloon, said thermal aircraft having an outer envelope for containing a quantity of hot air and an aperture in said envelope at or near its upper end for venting hot air from the envelope, said aperture being adapted to be temporarily closed or sealed by said venting means, said venting means comprising an operculum of a flexible material and substantially of parachute form adapted to removably cover and seal said aperture, first control means to extend said operculum laterally or radially to its maximum surface area at which point it removably covers and seals the aperture, characterised in that said first control means include conjoined contiguous venting control means which permit the outer perimeter at least of the operculum to be pulled away from the perimeter edge of the aperture to variably open same.